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STADIS

FOR AMBASSADOR, DCMS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS ONLY, FROM AF/RA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, US, XA

SUBJECT: AFRICA BUREAU FRIDAY REPORT, 8/13/93

USUN FOR HICKS AND SHESTACK, LONDON FOR MCKINLEY, PARIS FOR PERLOW, LISBON FOR DAVIS, MANILA FOR MOATS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER DATE/CASE ID: 04 NOV 2011 201005065

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1. (LOU) THE "FRIDAY REPORT", PREPARED FOR A/S WEEKLY MEETING, FOLLOWS. SOME OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REPORT IS SENSITIVE, DEALING WITH INTERAGENCY MATTERS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION OR REVIEW. DISTRIBUTION SHOULD THEREFORE BE CONFINED TO STATE PERSONNEL.

2. (U) BEGIN TEXT: FRIDAY REPORT, 8/13/93

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3. (C) AF

CALENDAR

-- ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE:

A/S MOOSE IS PRESENTLY ON LEAVE, AND WILL RETURN TO THE OFFICE OOB MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 1993. AF/PDAS MR. EDWARD BRYNN WILL BE ACTING A/S THROUGHOUT MR. MOOSE'S LEAVE.

ON FRIDAY, SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER MET PRIVATELY WITH SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER MOUSTAPHA NIASSE WHO WAS PART OF AN ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC) DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS BOSNIA. DAS BUSHNELL SAT IN ON THE MEETING. LATER IN THE AFTERNOON, MR. BRYNN MET WITH AMBASSADOR JESSERAMSING OF MAURITIUS.

IN PURSUING U.S. INTERESTS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION, PEACEKEEPING AND DEMOCRATIZATION MEETINGS ON LIBERIA, RWANDA, TOGO, ZAIRE AND KENYA FILLED OUT THE EARLIER DAYS OF THE WEEK. BOTH DAS BRYNN AND BUSHNELL MET WITH LIBERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BACCUS MATTHEWS ON THURSDAY,

13

WHILE EARLIER IN THE WEEK LIBERIA AND WHALS STREED DISCUSSED IN AN NSC-CHAIRED PEACEKEEPING MEETING. TOGO FOREIGN MINSTER NATCHABA MET WITH DAS BRYNN ON TUESDAY TO DISCUSS THE LATEST EVENTS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS.

MR. BRYNN ALSO HAD A VERY INSIGHTFUL MEETING ON THE NEXT CONFIDENTIAL

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STEPS ON THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY IN ZAIRE WITH U.N. ENVOY
LAKHDAR BRAHIMI. DAS BUSHNELL MET WITH KENYAN OPPOSITION
LEADER GITOBU IMANYARA ON WEDNESDAY TO DISCUSS A VARIETY
OF ISSUES FROM DEMOCRATIZATION TO SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS
MATTERS. MR. BRYNN TOOK A POLICY BREAK TO DISCUSS
BASKETBALL, AND YES- SUDAN AS WELL, WITH PRO-BASKETBALL
PLAYER MANUTE BOLL. FINALLY, THE WEEK ENDED WITH THE
SWEARING-IN OF AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO GUINEA, JOSEPH
SALOOM, ON THURSDAY MORNING. MR. SALOOM IS THE FIRST
AMBASSADOR.

4. (C) AF/C

KEY PERSONNEL

AF/C REINVENTS ITSELF:

SINCE ALL BUT ONE OFFICER (STEVE HONLEY) TRANSFER OUT OF AF/C THIS SUMMER, IT SEEMED A PROPITIOUS TIME TO ADJUST COUNTRY PORTFOLIOS, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. HERE IS THE NEW LINE-UP:

ARLENE RENDER: OFFICE DIRECTOR (ARRIVES 8/16)

REED FENDRICK: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (ARRIVES 8/23; ALSO BACKS UP ZAIRE DESK OFFICER)

TERRY MCCULLEY: ZAIRE (ARRIVES NOVEMBER; BACKS UP AF/C DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

STEVE HONLEY: CAMEROON, EQUATORIAL GUINEA (BACKS UF CONFIDENTIAL

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KEVIN AISTON: RWANDA, BURUNDI (BACKS UP CONGO/GABON/SAO TOME)

LORI MAGNUSSON: CONGO, GABON, SAO TOME (BACKS UP RWANDA/BURUNDI AND, SECONDARILY, ZAIRE)

MARY GRANDFIELD: CHAD, CAR (ARRIVES OCTOBER; BACKS UP CAMEROON/EG)

ZAIRE

-- BRAHIMI BRIEFS:

UNSYG SPECIAL ENVOY TO ZAIRE LAKHDAR BRAHIMI TOLD US HE WAS APPALLED BY SCANDALOUS CONDITIONS IN ZAIRE WITH A FEW RICH VULTURES HOVERING WHILE EVERYONE ELSE GOES WITH LITTLE OR NOTHING. HE WAS DISAPPOINTED BY THE SELF-DECEPTION OF MOBUTU AND TSHISEKEDI REGARDING US BELGIAN AND FRENCH POLICY, AND KEENLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MOBUTU'S ETHNO-MILITARY BASE. IN HIS VIEW, THE THREE COUNTRIES MUST VIGOROUSLY AND VISIBLY SUPPORT THE UN, IF THE LATTER IS GOING TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS IN HELPING TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION. HE PROPOSED A TRILATERAL MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL WITH BBG IN SEPT. TO WORK OUT A PLAN OF ACTION. WE ADVISED BRAHIMI THAT WE LIKED HIS IDEA, BUT THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE COMPETITION IN AFRICA FOR OUR TIME AND RESOURCES.

-- NO AGREEMENT TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS:

MOBUTU AND THE OPPOSITION CONTINUE TO BOB AND WEAVE OVER

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PAGE 06 STATE 248576 140820Z NEGOTIATIONS AND HAVE NOT YET REACHED AGREEMENT ON WHERE AND UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS. IN AN ATTEMPT TO MARGINALIZE

ONE OF THE ONLY CREDIBLE AND EVEN HANDED MEDIATORS, THE MOBUTUITES (AND EVEN A FEW OPPOSITIONISTS) ARE REJECTING ANY ROLE IN THE TALKS FOR HIGH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN ARCHBISHOP MONSENGWO. MEANWHILE, MOBUTU REMAINS IN KINSHASA AND IS ACTING MORE AND MORE LIKE A POLITICAL CANDIDATE. OPPOSITION UNITY VIS-A-VIS MOBUTU PROVED SHORTLIVED, AND SEVERAL PARTIES HAVE RESUMED THEIR SQUABBLING.

CHAD

A SERIES OF ARMED CLASHES CAST A SHADOW OVER AUG. 11
NATIONAL DAY OBSERVANCES. FIGHTING LAST WEEK IN THE
EASTERN PREFECTURE OF OUADDAI KILLED AT LEAST 64 PEOPLE,
WITH MANY MORE INJURED. THE GOC BLAMED REBEL LEADER ABBAS
KOTY, BUT MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE THE NATIONAL ARMY STRUCK
FIRST TO NEUTRALIZE REBEL CAPABILITIES. LATER WHEN
SECURITY FORCES IN THE CAPITAL WERE UNABLE TO DISPERSE AN
AUG. 8 PROTEST OF THE MASSACRE, THEY OPENED FIRE, KILLING
AT LEAST ANOTHER 41 (HUNDREDS MORE WERE WOUNDED AND
ARRESTED). CALM HAS RETURNED TO NDJAMENA.

CONGO

-- OLLY OLLY OXEN FREE:

THE BARRICADES HAVE COME DOWN, PEOPLE ARE TURNING IN UNAUTHORIZED WEAPONS, AND LIFE IS RETURNING TO NORMAL. SO MUCH SO THAT THE EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED THE LIFTING OF CONFIDENTIAL

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ORDERED DEPARTURE STATUS. THE ONLY RECENT UNREST OCCURRED WHEN BRAZZAVILLE'S BANKS BEGAN ISSUING APRIL 93 CIVIL SERVICE SALARY PAYMENTS, THE FIRST SINCE EARLY JUNE. THE ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD GATHERED ABOUT THE BANK, HOWLED WITH EXCITEMENT AND STARTED CLIMBING ON TOP OF ONE ANOTHER TO GET INSIDE.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

-- . . AND THEY'RE OFF::

THE OFFICIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN IS RUNNING, ALBEIT AWKWARDLY. KOLINGBA REPLACED LARGER TOWN MAYORS (WHOSE TERMS HAD EXPIRED) WITH LOYAL RDC MEN, WHILE FRANCE, THE EEC, AND JAPAN HAVE AGREED TO PROVIDE SOME FINANCIAL AID FOR THE ELECTIONS. KOLINGBA STILL BELIEVES THAT HE CAN WIN, EVEN THOUGH HIS PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR NOT ONLY HAS ADVISED HIM OTHERWISE, BUT IS LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

-- LIFE'S A . . .:

IN AN UNEXPECTED MOVE, THE IMF SUSPENDED FURTHER DISBURSEMENTS UNDER ITS CURRENT ENHANCED STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT FACILITY (ESAF) BECAUSE THE GREG HAS FALLEN SIGNIFICANTLY SHORT IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT AREAS. THE MEETING OF THE PARIS CLUB WITH AN EG AGENDA ITEM,

SCHEDULED FOR OCT., MAY NOW BE IN JECTATIVA SOFFICE
REALLY BAD NEWS (FOR OBIANG) IS THAT THE MOROCCAN GUARDS
STOPPED PROVIDING PROTECTION TO HIM ON AUG. 11 AND WILL BE
LEAVING SHORTLY. THIS IS A STEP WE HAD URGED FOR MONTHS
BECAUSE THEIR PRESENCE EMBOLDENED HIM TO CONTINUED SERIOUS
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HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND HEIGHTENED HIS UNWILLINGNESS TO
MOVE TOWARD DEMOCRATIZATION. THE ONE BRIGHT NOTE FOR
OBIANG IS THAT WHILE FRANCE IS SENDING ELECTION OBSERVERS
HE IS STILL NOT SPEAKING TO US IN MALABO AND IS BEING
BARELY CIVIL TO THE SPANISH.

CAMEROON

-- A SPY SAGA, CAMEROONIAN STYLE:
AFTER AN INITIAL BURST OF PUBLICITY, AMERICAN MEDIA
INTEREST IN THE AUG. 4 ARREST OF CAMEROONIAN LPR DOMINIC
NTUBE FOR ESPIONAGE HAS DIED DOWN. BACK IN CAMEROON
HOWEVER, THE STORY IS GENERATING NEW GRIST FOR THE RUMOR
MILL.

GABON

-- THE STORM BEFORE THE CALM:

LIBREVILLE HAS EXPERIENCED A FLURRY OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY BEFORE ITS USUAL AUG. VACATION BEGINS. THERE ARE NOW TEN DECLARED ENTRANTS FOR THE DEC. PRESIDENTIAL RACE (WHICH SEVERAL MAJOR CANDIDATES, SUCH AS PRESIDENT BONGO, HAVE YET TO ENTER), AND THE GOG IS ALREADY ISSUING NATIONAL ID CARDS (THE PREFERRED IDENTIFICATION FOR VOTING). MEANWHILE, NDI IS PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON ITS AREAF PROPOSAL TO TRAIN LOCAL ELECTION MONITORS AND FIELD INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS.

SAO TOME

-- COMING TO WASHINGTON:

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THE GOSTP HAS CONFIRMED THAT IT PLANS TO SHIFT ITS EMBASSY
FROM NEW YORK TO WASHINGTON SOMETIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

WE BELIEVE THIS IS A WISE DECISION, WHICH ARE SAVE THE ENCOURAGING FOR SOME TIME, BUT ARE URGING THE SAO TOMEANS TO BE MODEST AND REALISTIC AS THEY PLAN THE MOVE. SEVERAL OTHER AF/C COUNTRY EMBASSIES HERE HAVE ALREADY LANDED IN

DIRE FINANCIAL STRAITS. THE LAST THING WE NEED IS ONE MORE.

-- NIF STILL THE TOP PRIORITY:

RWANDA

- ON MONDAY, PRIME MINISTER UWILINGIYIMANA SUMMONED DIPLOMATS FROM THE PERM FIVE COUNTRIES TO URGE SUPPORT FOR DEPLOYMENT OF A UN-LED, NEUTRAL INTERNATIONAL FORCE (NIF) TO IMPLEMENT THE PEACE ACCORD. SHE GOT SYMPATHY, BUT NO FIRM COMMITMENTS. AMB. HOUDEK STOPPED IN PARIS ON HIS WAY BACK FROM ARUSHA TO CONSULT WITH THE FRENCH, WHO REPORTED THAT THEY SEE A UN-LED NIF AS THE KEY BUT HAVEN'T COME TO
- FIRM COMMITMENTS. AMB. HOUDEK STOPPED IN PARIS ON HIS WAY BACK FROM ARUSHA TO CONSULT WITH THE FRENCH, WHO REPORTED THAT THEY SEE A UN-LED NIF AS THE KEY, BUT HAVEN'T COME TO A CONSENSUS ON THE MISSION'S SIZE OR SCOPE. OUR INTERAGENCY GROUP IS ALSO DEBATING THIS ISSUE, AND HAVE DECIDED TO AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE UN RECON MISSION SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR RWANDA AT WEEK'S END.
- -- FUTURE OF NMOG BECOMES HOT TOPIC:
 THE NMOG HAS BEGUN ITS EXPANSION WITH A NEW CONTINGENT OF
 30 SENEGALESE AND 25 CONGOLESE TO REPLACE THE NMOG-ERS
 ROTATING OUT. THE OAU EXPECTS 60 TUNISIANS "ANY DAY,. BUT
 HAS GIVEN UP ON GETTING THE 120 NIGERIANS. THE EXPANDED
 FORCE (WHICH AT 125 WOULD BE HALF OF WHAT THEY HAD
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PLANNED) IS EXPECTED TO SERVE AS A BRIDGE UNTIL THE NIF
ARRIVES. AFTER THAT, THEIR FATE IS UNCLEAR. ALTHOUGH UN
U/SYG JONAH TOLD USUN THAT SALIM SALIM DOES NOT WANT THE
OAU INVOLVED IN THE PEACEKEEPING OPERATION, OAU OFFICIALS
TOLD ADDIS THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL NMOG CONTINGENT COULD
CHOOSE TO BE FOLDED INTO THE UN FORCE.

5. (C) AF/E

ETHIOPIA

-- CARTER-MELES LOVEFEAST:

PRESIDENT CARTER, FRESH FROM MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT MELES
AND OTHER ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS IN ADDIS, DESCRIBED THE
ETHIOPIAN PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT CLINTON IN AN AUGUST 10

LETTER AS A "SUPERB LEADER". CARTER WINT ANS SOF SANDHE IS CONVINCED THAT MELES IS TRYING TO BRING HIS COUNTRY INTO AN "ERA OF UNITY, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS". CARTER ANNOUNCED THAT HIS CENTER WILL HELP IN THE PREPARATION FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994. CARTER'S INTEREST IN THE ETHIOPIAN TRANSITION IS A REAL PLUS, BUT HE APPEARS OVERLY SANGUINE ABOUT DEMOCRATIZATION PROSPECTS. WE AGREE WITH CARTER

THAT OROMO LEADERS "BUZZING AROUND WASHINGTON AND LONDON" SHOULD BE PRESSED TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN DEVELOPING A NATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS. BUT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THEM "FAIR TREATMENT., AS CARTER PROPOSES, ANYMORE THAN WE WERE ABLE TO GUARANTEE AN INTIMIDATION-FREE ELECTION IN JUNE 1992.

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-- FIRST FELES MORA REACH ISRAEL:
THE FIRST SIXTEEN OF 129 FELES MORA (ETHIOPIANS WHO CLAIM TO BE DESCENDANTS OF FALASHAS FORCIBLY CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY), APPROVED FOR IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL, ARRIVED AUGUST 9. ISRAELI OFFICIALS STRESSED THAT FAMILY REUNIFICATION, RATHER THAN THEIR MUCH DEBATED STATUS AS JEWS, IS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THEIR IMMIGRATION.

ERITREA

-- ERITREAN AMBASSADOR RAISES AID ISSUE WITH ACTING SECRETARY:

DURING HIS PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS CEREMONY WITH ACTING SECRETARY WHARTON, ERITREAN AMBASSADOR HAGOS ONCE AGAIN PLEADED FOR MORE U.S. AID. AMONG OTHER PRESSING PROBLEMS, HE SAID ERITREA CANNOT COPE WITH THE REINTEGRATION OF 90,000 FORMER FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND OVER 800,000 REFUGEES. RECALLING RECENT OFFERS BY ERITREA (AND ETHIOPIA) TO HELP RESOLVE THE SOMALIA CRISIS, HAGOS SAID THAT A STABLE FRIEND IN THE REGION WOULD BE A GOOD INVESTMENT.

COMOROS

-- DEPORTATIONS FROM MAYOTTE:

A WAVE OF DEPORTATIONS OF COMORIANS FROM MAYOTTE, WHICH IS THE FOURTH ISLAND OF THE ARCHIPELAGO AND ADMINISTERED BY FRANCE, IS CAUSING AN UPROAR. THE DEPORTATIONS, WHICH APPEAR TO BE PART OF THE GROWING ANTI-TOP IN FRANCE, MAY RENEW COMORIAN CALLS FOR REINTEGRATION OF MAYOTTE INTO THE FEDERAL ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS CONFIDENTIAL

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MADAGASCAR

-- RAVONY IS PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE
FRANCISQUE RAVONY SURPRISINGLY WON A PLURALITY OF 55 VOTES
IN THE NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO BECOME PRIME
MINISTER-DESIGNATE. HE NOW HAS TWO WEEKS TO WIN OVER 13
MORE DELEGATES FOR THE ABSOLUTE MAJORITY NECESSARY FOR
CONFIRMATION: A GOAL WHICH HE CAN ATTAIN BY STRATEGICALLY

FILLING THE 25 MINISTERIAL SLOTS IN HIS NEW GOVERNMENT.
RAVONY, A FRANCOPHILE METIS FROM THE COAST, SHOULD BE ABLE
TO WORK SMOOTHLY WITH FELLOW "COTIER" PRESIDENT ZAFY.

TANZANIA

-- EXCHANGE RATES UNIFIED, PRIVATE BANK OPENS:
IN A MAJOR ECONOMIC REFORM PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENT, TANZANIA
UNIFIED ITS MULTIPLE EXCHANGE RATES EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2 ONE YEAR AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. THE RATE WILL NOW BE
DETERMINED BY MARKET FORCES AS REFLECTED BY THE AVERAGE
FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUREAU RATES. IN ANOTHER POSITIVE
DEVELOPMENT, AFTER 26 YEARS OF STATE FINANCIAL SECTOR
MONOPOLY, A PRIVATE BANK, MERIDIEN BIAO, OPENED IN
TANZANIA.

SUDAN

-- KHARTOUM MILITARY OFFENSIVE:
THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT HAS BROKEN
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THE CEASE-FIRE IT ANNOUNCED IN MARCH, LAUNCHING A MILITARY
OFFENSIVE SOUTH OF JUBA TOWARDS THE UGANDAN BORDER. IT IS
UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS IS A LIMITED THRUST AIMED AT
STRENGTHENING THE GOS'S HAND IN A FUTURE ROUND OF

NEGOTIATIONS, OR AN ALL OUT DRIVE ALMED ATA STEP OFF THE SPLA/MAINSTREAM'S SUPPLY LINES WITH UGANDA. IN ANY CASE, THE OFFENSIVE CONTRIBUTES TO A FURTHER WORSENING OF THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SOUTHERN SUDAN, AN AREA ALREADY PLAGUED BY FIERCE FIGHTING AMONG SPLA FACTIONS. THE DEPARTMENT CONDEMNED THE OFFENSIVE IN AN AUGUST 11 PUBLIC STATEMENT.

-- REFUGEES FLEE TO UGANDA:

IN THE FACE OF THE GOS OFFENSIVE, 25,000 REFUGEES HAVE BEEN REGISTERED AT A TRANSIT CAMP IN NORTHERN UGANDA. THERE ARE ALSO DISQUIETING REPORTS OF 70,000 MORE SUDANESE FLEEING TOWARD THE UGANDAN BORDER. THE UNHOR APPEARS TO HAVE THE SITUATION IN HAND, AT LEAST FOR NOW, WHILE WFP/KAMPALA IS CONDUCTING EMERGENCY FOOD CONVOYS.

-- NO BREAKTHROUGH FOR ENVOY TRAXLER:
THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S ENVOY FOR SUDAN, VIERI TRAXLER,
CONCLUDED FOUR DAYS OF DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS WITH
SUDANESE AUTHORITIES IN KHARTOUM, FALLING FAR SHORT OF A
BREAKTHROUGH ON RELIEF ISSUES. HE CONCLUDED A SET OF
AGREEMENTS AIMED AT BETTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECEMBER
1992 OPERATION LIFELINE SUDAN (OLS) ACCORD AND THE JANUARY
1993 INTERNATIONAL NGO-GOS AGREEMENT. SUDANESE

AUTHORITIES STONEWALLED TRAXLER'S ATTEMPTS TO GAIN INGO ACCESS TO THE NUBA MOUNTAINS, FURTHER RAISING CONCERNS CONFIDENTIAL

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ABOUT CONDITIONS THERE. SUDANESE CONCESSIONS WERE
GENERALLY MINOR, AND GRANTED ONLY GRUDGINGLY. OUR EMBASSY
CONSIDERS IT USEFUL, HOWEVER, THAT SPECIFIC GOS
COMMITMENTS WERE PUT ON PAPER.

-- CARTER SEES MEDIATOR ROLE:

PRESIDENT CARTER, AFTER MEETINGS WITH LEADERS OF THE RIVAL SPLA FACTIONS AND TOP GOS OFFICIALS, BELIEVES THAT ALL THE CONTENDING PARTIES WOULD ACCEPT HIM AS A PEACE MEDIATOR. KHARTOUM ASKED ONLY THAT IT BE GIVEN A FEW DAYS TO VERIFY WITH PRESIDENT BABANGIDA THAT HE PLANS NO FURTHER TALKS. CARTER'S FIRST OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO TRY TO ARRANGE A CEASE FIRE. WHILE MAKING NO PREDICTIONS OF SUCCESS, CARTER HAS WRITTEN PRESIDENT CLINTON THAT INTERNATIONAL MONITORS AND U.S. HELP WOULD BE NEEDED IF A CEASE FIRE COULD BE ATTAINED.

-- UN CAUTIOUSLY ENDORSES ETHIOPIAN/ERITREAN INITIATIVE:
ASSISTANT UN SECRETARY GENERAL FOR PEACEKEEPING RIZA AND
OTHER UN OFFICIALS GAVE A CAUTIOUS ENDORSEMENT, IN AN
AUGUST 12 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR SHINN, TO PRESIDENT
MELES AND PRESIDENT ISSAIAS'S PROPOSAL FOR AN AFRICAN
INITIATIVE TO NEGOTIATE GENERAL AIDEED'S POSSIBLE EXILE TO
A THIRD COUNTRY. DESPITE AMERICAN PRODDING, THE UN
OFFICIALS REMAIN RELUCTANT TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE
ETHIOPIANS AND ERITREANS TO GET THE INITIATIVE UNDERWAY,
AND SOMEWHAT RESISTANT TO DISCUSS THE NEGOTIATING
PARAMETERS FOR THE ETHIOPIANS/ERITREANS. IF THE
INITIATIVE SHOWS PROMISE, THE UN IS WILLING TO BECOME MORE
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- 6. (U) AF/EPS
- -- ERITREA SEEKS IMF/IBRD MEMBERSHIP:
 THE FUND HAS RECEIVED ERITREA'S APPLICATION FOR
 MEMBERSHIP, AND WILL SOON UNDERTAKE ITS CONSIDERATION BY A
 SPECIAL COMMITTEE. ERITREA HAS ALSO APPLIED FOR
 MEMBERSHIP IN THE WORLD BANK.
- -- IMF SUSPENDS SUDAN:

THE IMF EXECUTIVE BOARD VOTED AUGUST 6 TO SUSPEND SUDAN'S VOTING RIGHTS IN THE FUND BECAUSE OF ITS USD 1.6 BILLION OVERDUE PAYMENTS. THE VOTE WAS 71.64 PERCENT OF THE IMF'S

TOTAL VOTING POWER, WHICH CARRIED THE SUPPORT OF MOST WESTERN BOARD MEMBERS (EXCEPT FRANCE) AND A HANDFUL OF DEVELOFING COUNTRY DIRECTORS, INCLUDING THOSE REPRESENTING INDONESIA, BRAZIL, INDIA, AND ARGENTINA. SUDAN'S LARGE AND PROTRACTED ARREARS, INADEQUATE EFFORTS TO RESUME PAYMENTS ON CURRENT OBLIGATIONS, AND POOR RECORD OF ECONOMIC REFORM WERE THE KEY FACTORS BEHIND THE SUSPENSION VOTE. THE ACTION IS A FIRST AGAINST AN IMF MEMBER COUNTRY, FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION OF NEW RULES ALLOWING THIS PROCEDURE. IT MAY BE A PRECEDENT FOR COUNTRIES IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS, SUCH AS ZAIRE.

THE BOARD WILL REVISIT SUDAN'S SITUATION ON A REGULAR SIX-MONTH BASIS, AND MAY DECIDE TO REVERSE THE SUSPENSION BY A 70 PERCENT MAJORITY VOTE PENDING CREDIBLE TURN-AROUND

IN ITS REFORM EFFORTS AND IMPROVED POSITIVE POSITIVE AND IMPROVED POSITIVE POSITIVE POSI

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OTHERWISE, THE NEXT STEP IS COMPULSORY WITHDRAWAL FROM THE
FUND, WHICH REQUIRES AN 85 PERCENT VOTING MAJORITY. SINCE
SUDAN REMAINS A MEMBER OF THE IMF, IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE
SUBJECT TO FUND SURVEILLANCE AND HAVE CONTACT WITH THE
FUND STAFF.

-- GSF EXTENDED:

THE COMPROMISE BUDGET BILL RECENTLY PASSED BY CONGRESS HAS REINSTATED GSP. THE EXTENSION WILL RUN TO SEPTEMBER 1994, AND IS RETROACTIVE TO GSP'S EXPIRATION LAST MONTH, MEANING THAT IMPORTERS WILL GET REFUNDS FOR TARIFFS PAID IN THE INTERIM. THE LEGISLATION ADDED THE FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS TO THE PROGRAM.

- -- EQUATORIAL GUINEA'S IMF PROGRAM OFF TRACK:
 A VISITING IMF TEAM IS NOT SATISFIED WITH EQUATORIAL
 GUINEA'S PROGRESS UNDER ITS ENHANCED STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT
 FACILITY, WHICH WAS APPROVED IN FEBRUARY, AND HAS
 RECOMMENDED SUSPENDING FURTHER DISBURSEMENTS. THE
 GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF CONTROL OVER EXPENDITURES AND
 EXTERNAL BORROWING WAS THE PRIMARY REASON FOR THE TEAM'S
 FINDING. RESCHEDULING OF E.G.'S OFFICIAL BILATERAL DEBT
 (USD 123 MILLION NONE TO THE U.S.), WHICH WAS ON THE
 PARIS CLUB'S OCTOBER AGENDA, IS CONTINGENT ON THE IMF'S
 SEAL OF APPROVAL, AND WILL THUS BE DELAYED.
- -- SECOND TRANCHE OF ETHIOPIA'S SAF APPROVED:
 ON AUGUST 5, THE IMF APPROVED A LOAN OF USD 29.6 MILLION
 TO SUPPORT ETHIOPIA'S SECOND ANNUAL STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT
 FACILITY (SAF). THE GOVERNMENT IS GENERALLY ON TRACK IN
 IMPLEMENTING ITS MACROECONOMIC AND STRUCTURAL REFORM
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PROGRAMS. SUCCESSFUL MEASURES WERE THE DECONTROL OF

ADMINISTERED PRICES AND THE ADOPTION OF NEW INVESTMENT AND LABOR CODES, AS WELL AS IMPLEMENTATION OF A PUBLIC ENTERPRISE LAW. SINCE THE SAF WAS IMPLEMENTED LAST OCTOBER, REAL GDP HAS GROWN ABOUT 7.6 PERCENT, INFLATION

HAS BEEN HALVED TO 10 PERCENT, AND INTERPLATION AFFIRMS ERVES ALMOST DOUBLED. THE 1993/94 SAF AIMS AT ACHIEVING REAL GDP GROWTH OF 5.8 PERCENT, MAINTAINING INFLATION AT 10 PERCENT AND FURTHER INCREASING ETHIOPIA'S RESERVES.

7. (U) AF/EX

-- PMOA

M HAS DELEGATED TO THE AF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE, OR DENY, REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTIONS TO THE AUTHORIZED DEPARTURE REGULATIONS THAT ARE IN EFFECT FOR LAGOS AND CONSTITUENT POSTS.

ALL EVACUEES, OTHER U.S. EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS RESIDING OUTSIDE OF NIGERIA WHO HAVE RETURN AIRLINE TICKETS VIA ATA AIRLINES MUST HAVE NEW GTR'S PREPARED BY THEIR RESFECTIVE AGENCIES ROUTING THEM THROUGH EUROPE. ATA'S DIRECT FLIGHT TO THE U.S. HAS BEEN SUSPENDED IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT FAA RULING AND IS UNLIKELY TO RESUME WITHIN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS.

-- BUDGET NEWS

AF/EX/BFO IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH THE ASSOCIATE

COMPTROLLER TO DISCUSS THE TRANSFER OF FMS ACCOUNTING FROM
FMC NAIROBI TO RAMC PARIS. THE BUREAU HAS BEEN LOBBYING

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FMP FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND IT APPEARS THAT THERE IS "LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL." IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE SUCCESSFUL, FIVE POSTS, NAMELY, BUJUMBURA, KIGALI, LILONGWE, LUSAKA AND SEYCHELLES, WILL ACCOUNT DIRECTLY TO RAMC PARIS AND REDUCE NAIROBI'S WORKLOAD CONSIDERABLY. WE ARE TARGETING OCTOBER 1, 1993, AS THE EFFECTIVE DATE.

8. (U) AF/P

MEDIA

NIGERIA DOMINATED THE NEWS THIS WEEK, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO ABIOLA'S VISIT. SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND ANGOLA ALSO RECEIVED ATTENTION.

OUTREACH:

WORLD CONFERENCE OF MAYORS: PLANS CONTINUE FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF MAYORS UPCOMING CONFERENCE AUGUST 25-27 IN

9. (U) AF/RA

NO REPORT THIS WEEK.

10. (C) AF/S

SOUTH AFRICA

-- LOTS OF VISITORS COMING UP. AMB LYMAN WILL BE IN WASHINGTON ON CONSULTATIONS FROM SEPT 7-10. PRESIDENT DE CONFIDENTIAL

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KLERK WILL ALSO BE HERE LATER IN THE MONTH, AFTER

ATTENDING THE 25TH WORLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONGRESS IN

NEW YORK. NO INDICATION SO FAR OF HIS PLANS HERE.

REPRESENTATIVES OF COSAG WILL ALSO BE IN WASHINGTON EARLY

NEXT MONTH.

-- AF/S IS EXPLORING WHAT THE US CAN DO TOWARDS STOPPING THE VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA. AMONG OTHER THINGS, WE ARE SEEKING DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO POST TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO NATIONAL PEACE ACCORD STRUCTURES.

ANGOLA

-- WE ARE REVIEWING WAYS OF PROVIDING BOTH SYMBOLIC AND PRACTICAL SIGNS OF SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT DOS SANTOS DURING HIS SEPTEMBER 19 - 30 TRIP TO THE US. WE ARE EVALUATING A VARIETY OF ANGOLAN INITIATIVES - UN, MOROCCO, OAU AND OUR OWN - TO HELP REVIVE ANGOLAN PEACE TALKS.

BOTSWANA

-- OPPOSITION THREATENS TO BOYCOTT ELECTIONS:
THE DIVIDED BOTSWANA NATIONAL FRONT (BNF), THE MAIN
OPPOSITION PARTY, HAS THREATENED TO BOYCOTT THE 1994
GENERAL ELECTION UNLESS THE GOB AGREES TO LOWER THE VOTING
AGE FROM 21 TO 18; ESTABLISH A MULTI-PARTY BODY TO
SUPERVISE THE ELECTIONS, AND; PERMIT BOTSWANANS RESIDING
OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY TO VOTE. WHILE THE BNF'S PROPOSALS
ARE NOT UNREASONABLE, THE LIKELIHOOD OF THEIR ADOPTION
BEFORE THE ELCTIONS IS REMOTE. MOREOVER, A BNF BOYCOTT
WOULD LIKELY LEAD TO THE EMERGENCE OF SMALLER AND WEAKER
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PAGE 20 STATE 248576 140820Z OPPOSITION PARTIES.

LESOTHO

- -- AID REVIEW SET FOR AUGUST 17:
 AN INTERAGENCY GROUP WILL REVIEW THE FUTURE OF THE AID
 PROGRAM IN LESOTHO AT AN AUGUST 17 MEETING. AID WANTS TO
 PHASE OUT ALL DIRECT-HIRE POSITIONS BY THE END OF FY94,
 HAVING NGOS AND OFFICERS BASED IN SWAZILAND, ZIMBABWE, OR
 KENYA OVERSEE THE AID PROGRAM. STATE WANTS AN AID
 DIRECT-HIRE PRESENCE TO CONTINUE AT LEAST THROUGH FY96.
- -- GOL PLANS TO REPEAL INTERNAL SECURITY ACT:
 FOREIGN MINISTER QHOBELA TOLD OUR CHARGE THAT THE CABINET HAD DECIDED TO REPEAL THE 1984 INTERNAL SECURITY ACT.

MALAWI

ON AUGUST 6, AID APPROVED THE RELEASE OF DOLLARS 11
MILLION IN FY93 BILATERAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS TO MALAWI
WHICH HAD BEEN FROZEN IN ORDER TO PRESSURE THE GOVERNMENT
TO UNDERTAKE POLITICAL REFORMS. THIS ACTION WAS BASED ON
A DETERMINATION THAT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED
IN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TRANSITION TO MULTIPARTY
ELECTIONS. THE BRITISH RELEASED ITS BILATERAL ASSISTANCE
TO MALAWI EARLIER IN THE WEEK.

MOZAMBIQUE

-- MULTIPARTY CONFERENCE STALLED:
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DISAGREEMENT OVER THE COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL
ELECTIONS COMMISSION HAS THE MULTIPARTY TALKS ON
MOZAMBIQUE'S ELECTORAL LAW AT AN IMPASSE. THE 12 UNARMED
OPPOSITION PARTIES SIDED WITH RENAMO TO REJECT THE GRM'S
LATEST PROPOSAL FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMMISSION'S 21
SEATS. SOME OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES TOOK UN SPECIAL REP
ALDO AJELLO TO TASK FOR IMPROPERLY PRESSURING THE
CONFERENCE TO PRODUCE A DRAFT LAW. AJELLO RESPONDED THAT

HE WAS ENCOURAGING PROGRESS ONLY TO ANOTH AND SUPPLY OUTLES.
IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS THAT FURTHER DELAYS WILL CAUSE.

NAMIBIA

-- GON CONTINUES TO FLOG WALVIS BAY REINTEGRATION:
ON AUGUST 10, GON COUNSELLOR ISAAK MET WITH AF/S AND ASKED
THE USG TO ENCOURAGE THE SAG TO SUPPORT A PAC-SPONSORED
RESOLUTION TO THE MULTI-PARTY NEGOTIATING FORUM. THE PAC
RESOLUTION, WHICH HAD ANC SUPPORT, URGED THE FORUM TO

EXCLUDE WALVIS BAY AND THE OFF-SHORE ISLANDS FROM THE PROPOSED REGIONAL BOUNDARIES AND CALLED ON THE SAG TO RETURN THE TERRRITORIES IMMEDIATELY TO THE GON. WE TOLD ISAAK THAT THE USG HAS WELCOMED THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED UNDER THE JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY (JAA), AND IN THAT REGARD, THE USG BELIEVED THAT CONTINUED DISCUSSION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SAG AND GON IS THE BEST APPROACH FOR RESOLVING THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE.

SWAZILAND

-- ELECTION DATES SET:

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PRIMARY ELECTIONS FOR THE NEW PARLIAMENT HAVE BEEN
SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 18; SECONDARY ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN
SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 11.

ZAMBIA

-- GOZ TAKES PREEMPTIVE ACTION AGAINST PUBLIC SERVICE UNIONS:

WHILE THE UNIONS WERE CANVASSING MEMBERS TO SEE IF THEY WOULD ACCEPT A 50 PERCENT PAY RAISE OR OPT TO DECLARE A DISPUTE, THE GOZ TOOK PREEMPTIVE ACTION ON AUGUST 6 AND FORMALLY DECLARED A DISPUTE ITSELF. THE UNIONS WERE TAKEN BY COMPLETE SURPRISE, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THERE APPEARED TO BE A CHANCE THAT THE MEMBERSHIP MIGHT ACCEPT THE GOZ OFFER. THE GOZ MIGHT BE TRYING TO DRAMATIZE ITS DETERMINATION NOT TO GIVE ANYTHING ABOVE 50 PERCENT. THE GOZ CALLED ON THE UNIONS TO COOPERATE IN APPOINTING A CONCILATOR TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE. SOME SUSPECT THAT THE GOZ BELIEVES THE UNIONS FEAR A LONG ARBITRATION BATTLE AND WILL ACCEPT MORE QUICKLY THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL.

-- BCCI FUGITIVE ARRIVES IN US; EXTRADITION TREATY IS NEXT STEP:

ON AUGUST 9, BCCI FUGITIVE BASHIR SHAIK, A PAKISTANI
NATIONAL RESIDENT IN ZIMBABWE FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, WAS
ARRAIGNED IN FEDERAL COURT IN TAMPA, FLORIDA. SHAIK IS
ONE OF FIVE FUGITIVES WE HAVE WORKED WITH THE ZIMBABWEAN
AUTHORITIES TO GET EXTRADICTED OR DEPORTED TO THE US THIS
YEAR. WE EXPECT TO BEGIN NEGOTIATING A FORMAL EXTRADITION
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PAGE 23 STATE 248576 140820Z TREATY WITH ZIMBABWE LATER THIS YEAR.

-- INVESTMENT AND LAND ACQUISITION DO NOT MIX:
THE AUGUST 4 MEETING OF THE POWERFUL ZIMBABWE COMMERCIAL
FARMERS UNION (CFU) UNDERSCORED THE GROWING RACIAL

DIVISIONS WITHIN ZIMBABWEAN SOCIETY. AT THE MEETING MINISTER OF LANDS, AGRICULTURE AND WATER DEVELOPMENT KUMBIRAI KANGAI ADMITTED THAT MOST BLACK-OWNED FARMS WERE NOT BEING DESIGNATED FOR ACQUISITION--IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR PRODUCTIVITY. ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT INVESTORS AND DONORS ARE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE LAND ISSUE. IN FACT, TO PROTEST ZIMBABWE'S LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND CLUMSY ATTEMPTS TO OVERTURN SUPREME COURT DECISIONS BY PASSING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT INDEFINITELY POSTPONED AN INVESTMENT PROMOTION MISSION BY ZIMBABWEAN MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE CHRIS USHEWOKUNZE.

-- ZIMBABWE REFUSES TO SEND ADDITIONAL TROOPS TO SOMALIA UNTIL GOVERNMENT IS REIMBURSED FOR UNITAF/UNISOM II DEPLOYMENT: MINISTER OF DEFENSE MOVEN MAHACHI TOLD THE ZIMBABWEAN PRESS THAT NO MORE TROOPS WOULD BE DISPATCHED TO SOMALIA UNTIL ZIMBABWE HAD BEEN REIMBURSED FOR THE FIRST BATTALION'S EXPENSES.

11. (C) AF/W

LIBERIA

-- ADVANCE GROUP OF UN OBSERVERS APPROVED: CONFIDENTIAL

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ON AUGUST 10, THE UNSC PASSED RESOLUTION 856 WELCOMING THE
LIBERIA PEACE ACCORD AND APPROVING THE DISPATCH OF AN
ADVANCE TEAM OF 30 MILITARY OBSERVERS TO WORK WITH ECOMOG
AND THE LIBERIAN FACTIONS TO MONITOR THE CEASE-FIRE. THE
TEAM, WHICH WILL BE DRAWN FROM EXISTING UN PEACEKEEPING
OPERATIONS, IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE DURING THE LAST WEEK OF
AUGUST. THE UNSC WILL AWAIT THE REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL
TEAM NOW IN MONROVIA BEFORE CONSIDERING A FULL-FLEDGED UN
OBSERVER OPERATION AS CALLED FOR IN THE PEACE ACCORD.

THE UN TECHNICAL TEAM TRAVELLED TO GBARNGA AUGUST 10 TO MEET WITH CHARLES TAYLOR. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE TEAM SECURED TAYLOR'S PERMISSION TO BEGIN CROSS-LINES RELIEF SHIPMENTS. THE FIRST CONVOY WAS TO DEPART MONROVIA ON AUGUST 13. THIS SHOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD ADDRESSING WHAT RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS SAY IS AN IMPENDING FAMINE IN THE KAKATA-GBARNGA CORRIDOR. AT THE SAME TIME, THE UN IS WORKING TO DEPLOY CIVILIAN MONITORS, DRAWN FROM UN AGENCIES IN THE REGION, TO INSPECT CROSS-BORDER SHIPMENTS FROM COTE D'IVOIRE.

-- BACCUS PAYS A CALL:

IGNU FOMIN BACCUS MATTHEWS CALLED ON ED BRYNN AND PRU
BUSHNELL AUGUST 12 TO URGE THAT THE US PROVIDE FINANCIAL
SUPPORT FOR THE EXPANDED ECOMOG PEACEKEEPING FORCE.
MATTHEWS IS EXPECTED TO STEP DOWN FROM HIS CURRENT POST IN
THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, BEFORE THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IS
INSTALLED, SO THAT HE CAN CONTEST THE PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTIONS. HE TOLD US THAT HE HAD NOT YET MADE UP HIS
MIND.

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CAPE VERDE

-- (NOTHING SIGNIFICANT ON CAPE VERDE AS OF COB AUGUST 11.)

GHANA

-- PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISITS WASHINGTON:
DR. IBN CHAMBAS, FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT AND

FORMER DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, IS LENGINGASING PERSON PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION ON A 28-DAY USIA-SPONSORED VISIT TO THE U.S. IN GHANA'S 200-MEMBER PARLIAMENT, THERE ARE 16 WOMEN, TWO OF WHOM ARE ON THIS DELEGATION: HAWA YAKUBU OGEDE, ONE OF THE TWO INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, AND GLADYS BOATENG, FROM THE PORT CITY OF TEMA. IN WASHINGTON, THE DELEGATION RECEIVED A BRIEFING FROM AID/AFR AND MET WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS INCLUDING THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS. THEY WILL BE TRAVELING TO MISSISSIPPI, CALIFORNIA, NEBRASKA, OHIO AND NEW YORK BEFORE RETURNING TO ACCRA.

GUINEA-BISSAU

-- POLITICIANS OUT OF DETENTION AGAIN:
OPPOSITION LEADER JOAO DA COSTA AND ANOTHER POLITICIAN,
WHO WERE REARRESTED AUGUST 2 BY ORDER OF A MILITARY COURT,
WERE RELEASED AGAIN EARLY THIS WEEK.

GUINEA

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-- OPIC MISSION SUCCESS: CELLULAR TELECOM LICENSE TO U.S.
FIRM:

WITH EMBASSY CONAKRY'S STRONG SUPPORT FOLLOWING THE MAY OPIC/USAID MISSION, EQUAL ACCESS OF WASHINGTON HAS WON A LICENSE TO INSTALL A CELLULAR TELEPHONE SYSTEM IN GUINEA. GUINEAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EQUAL ACCESS' LOCAL PARTNER SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ON AUGUST 4. EQUAL ACCESS WILL SEEK TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FINANCING FOR THE

FEASIBILITY STUDY PHASE, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN LATE AUGUST. THIS IS THE FIRST MAJOR POST-OPIC MISSION SUCCESS STORY, AND ONE THAT IS LIKELY TO GREATLY ENHANCE THE BUSINESS CLIMATE BY IMPROVING GUINEA'S TELECOMMUNICATION CAPACITY.

MAURITANIA

-- PRESIDENT TAYA'S RETURN:
PRESIDENT TAYA RETURNED TO N

PRESIDENT TAYA RETURNED TO NOUAKCHOTT ON AUGUST 4 AFTER AN UNPRECEDENTED THREE-WEEK, STILL UNEXPLAINED, STAY IN PARIS. IN PUBLIC APPEARANCES ON AUGUST 5, HE APPEARED TO BE IN NORMAL HEALTH AND SPIRITS. TAYA'S RETURN HAS NOT ENDED THE SPECULATION THAT HE HAS A SERIOUS LONG-TERM

MEDICAL PROBLEM. HE PLANS A STAY IN NIS HANS SEPTEM OF ATTAR, A STAY THAT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE CALLED A NORMAL VACATION BY HIS SUPPORTERS, AND A CONVALESCENCE BY HIS OPPONENTS.

-- THE SAGA OF DOULOS:

MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT (GIRM) OFFICIALS LAST WEEK ORDERED THE SERIOUS, COMPETENT DOULOS COMMUNITY, A U.S. BASED NGO CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVIDING FOOD ASSISTANCE AND MATERNAL/CHILD HEALTH CARE
PROGRAMS IN NOUAKCHOTT, TO HALT ITS ACTIVITIES AND LEAVE.
AFTER EMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT'S INTERVENTION WITH THE GIRM AND
THE DEPARTMENT'S AUGUST 10 DISCUSSION WITH THE MAURITANIAN
AMBASSADOR, THE GIRM REVERSED ITS DECISION AGAINST
DOULOS. THE MOVE APPEARED TO BE AN ILL-CONSIDERED AND
UNCOORDINATED DECISION BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WHICH
WAS TAKEN IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS EFFORT TO CONTROL
RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISTS.

NIGERIA

-- PARTIES' INTERIM GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL:
THE PARTIES HAVE PROPOSED AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT IN WHICH
ALL POSITIONS EXCEPT THAT OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, BUT
INCLUDING HEAD OF STATE AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE
ARMED FORCES, WOULD BE FILLED BY CIVILIANS. THE PROPOSED
GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE A TERM OF 18 MONTHS AND WOULD RULE
BY DECREE. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE DOWN-SIZED AND
THE PARTIES RADICALLY RESTRUCTURED. BABANGIDA WOULD STEP
DOWN.

-- OR WOULD HE?:

OUR MISSION'S INTERLOCUTORS INCREASINGLY DOUBT BABANGIDA'S WILLINGNESS TO STEP DOWN. AT BEST, THEY SAY, HE MIGHT STEP ASIDE AND PERMIT A NOMINALLY CIVILIAN AUTHORITY TO

FUNCTION WHILE PULLING STRINGS FROM BEHIND THE SCENES. BABANGIDA HAS INDICATED HIS VIEWS WILL BE MADE PUBLIC ON AUGUST 16.

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-- AIR SERVICE TO U.S. SUSPENDED:

THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION AUGUST 11 ORDERED THE IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF AIR SERVICE BETWEEN LAGOS AIRPORT AND THE U.S. THE DECISION RESULTED FROM THE AIRPORT'S DISMAL FAILURE, DESPITE NINE MONTHS OF FAA COACHING, TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE SECURITY MEASURES. THE REGIME REACTED ANGRILY, CLAIMING THAT THE DOT ACTION WAS MOTIVATED BY "POLITICAL AND PERSONAL" CONSIDERATIONS.

-- MORE ARRESTS:

POLICE BROKE UP AN AUGUST 9 MEETING OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OPPOSED TO THE PARTY LEADERSHIP'S DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT. MEANWHILE, THE REGIME CONTINUES TO ARREST HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS AROUND THE COUNTRY, PERHAPS IN ORDER TO NIP IN THE BUD ANY ACTIVISM THAT MIGHT GIVE A NATIONAL FLAVOR TO THE CURRENT SOUTHWEST-BASED OPPOSITION TO THE REGIME'S POLITICAL MANEUVERINGS.

-- GENERAL STRIKE EFFECTIVE IN LAGOS AREA:
THE THREE-DAY GENERAL STRIKE CALLED BY THE CAMPAIGN FOR
DEMOCRACY TO PROTEST THE REGIME'S ANNULMENT OF THE JUNE 12
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, AND ITS SUBSEQUENT MANIPULATIONS OF
THE POLITICAL PROCESS, IS EFFECTIVE IN SOUTHWESTERN
NIGERIA, BUT ADHERENCE SEEMS MINIMAL ELSEWHERE.

SENEGAL

-- OIC DELEGATION INCLUDES SENEGALESE FORMIN NIASSE:
THE SECRETARY AGREED TO MEET ON AUGUST 13 WITH AN
ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC) DELEGATION FOR AN
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EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA. THE GROUP INCLUDED SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER MOUSTAPHA NIASSE, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE OIC (DR. HAMID AL-GABID), FOREIGN MINISTERS OF PAKISTAN AND TURKEY AND THE TUNISIAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. AFTER THE OIC MEETING, THE SECRETARY MET SEPARATELY WITH NIASSE TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DIOUF TO CLINTON, BELIEVED TO CONCERN THE FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL CANDIDACY OF JACQUES DIOUF.

BENIN

-- NEW OPPOSITION POLITICIAL COALIDING CFORMS IFIED

TWENTY-FIVE BENINESE POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE FORMED THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE FORCES OF CHANGE (CNFC) WITH THE STATED AIM OF PRESERVING THE SPIRIT OF NATIONAL UNITY CREATED DURING BENIN'S DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION. UNITY MAY BE DIFFICULT WITHIN THE GROUP ITSELF, HOWEVER, SINCE ITS MEMBERSHIP RANGES FROM CENTRIST TO ULTRALEFTIST PARTIES. THE ORGANIZATION'S CHARTER IMPLIES A DUAL MANDATE TO PROVIDE AN OPPOSITION FORUM AND AN ORGAN TO GUARANTEE CONSTITUTIONAL CHECKS AND BALANCES. WHILE IT'S AIMS ARE LAUDABLE, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE PROGRAMS WILL PREVAIL OVER THE PERSONALITIES.

COTE D'IVOIRE

-- HOUPHOUET'S HEALTH - WHO TO BELIEVE:
THE RUMOR MILL IS CONTINUING TO SPECULATE OVER PRESIDENT
HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY'S HEALTH IN SPITE OF PUBLIC REASSURANCES
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OFFERED BY HIS ADVISORS. ONE REPORTER WENT SO FAR AS TO
QUESTION WHETHER FRANCE WOULD CONCEAL HIS DEATH UNTIL ALL
NECESSARY MEASURES WERE TAKEN TO RESPOND TO ANY UNREST
THAT MIGHT FOLLOW THE ANNOUNCEMENT (READ: FRENCH MILITARY
FORCES READIED). HIGH IVORIAN AND FRENCH SOURCES ARE
INSISTING THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, THE PRESIDENT IS IN
EXCELLENT HEALTH AND HAS BEGUN GRANTING AUDIENCES TO
OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE CALLERS. NONETHELESS, HE HAS STILL
NOT BEEN HEARD OR SEEN IN PUBLIC SINCE JUNE.

TOGO

-- EFFORTS TO RESOLVE OLYMPIO CANDIDACY QUESTION UNSUCCESSFUL:

DESPITE INTENSE EFFORTS BY THE COMITE DE SUIVI, THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTORAL MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR TOGO'S UPCOMING ELECTIONS, LEADING OPPOSITION FIGURE GILCHRIST OLYMPIO WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT BE A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ON AUGUST 25. THE COMITE OBTAINED GOT AGREEMENT ON A COMPROMISE TO RESOLVE THE TECHNICAL PROBLEM OF OLYMPIO'S MEDICAL CLEARANCE, ARRANGING FOR OLYMPIO TO TRAVEL TO LOME TO UNDERGO THE MEDICAL EXAM REQUIRED BY THE ELECTORAL CODE WITH AN ESCORT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMITE AND THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY OBSERVER MISSION TO ENSURE HIS PERSONAL SAFETY. OLYMPIO DID NOT, HOWEVER, ACCEPT THE

OFFER, ARGUING FOR ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS AND STRUCT AS A RESULT, PROSPECTS FOR HIS ACTIVE CANDIDACY APPEAR TO HAVE REACHED THE END OF THE LINE.

THE GAMBIA

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-- CORE INDUSTRY PRIVATIZATION:

THE CORE ASSETS OF THE GOTG-OWNED AND OPERATED GROUNDNUT PARASTATAL, THE GAMBIA PRODUCE MARKETING BOARD (GPMB), HAVE BEEN SOLD TO A JOINT VENTURE OF THE GAMBIA COOPERATIVE UNION AND SWISS-BASED ALIMENTA. AID HAS ACTIVELY SUPPORTED PRIVATIZATION OF GPMB. THE SALE WAS THE CRITICAL ELEMENT FOR MEETING THE FIRST TRANCHE CONDITIONALITY FOR A DOLLARS 17.35 MILLION FINANCIAL AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE PROGRAM.

-- CENSUS RESULTS:

EARLY NUMBERS FROM THE 1993 CENSUS SHOW THAT THE GAMBIA'S POPULATION HAS INCREASED FROM 688,000 IN 1983 TO OVER ONE MILLION. THE POPULATION GROWTH RATE FOR THE TEN-YEAR PERIOD WAS 4.1 PERCENT, UP FROM 3.4 PERCENT DURING THE PREVIOUS TEN YEARS. IMMIGRATION IS CONSIDERED A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE HIGH POPULATION GROWTH RATE.

12. (U) THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS

CONGRESS IS IN RECESS.

13. (U) CALENDAR

1993

AUGUST

AUG. 22: FIRST ROUND LEGISLATIVE AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN C.A.R.
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AUG. 25: FIRST ROUND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONA STIFFED.

AUG. 27: NIGERIAN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION.

SEPTEMBER

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SEPT. 5: COMOROS ISLANDS GOVERNORS' ELECTIONS.

SEPT. 8: RUN-OFF OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN TOGO.

SEPT. 12: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA.

DECEMBER

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DEC. 5: FIRST ROUND OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN GABON.

DEC. 19: SECOND ROUND OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN GABON (IF NEEDED).

1994

APRIL

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APRIL 27: SOUTH AFRICAN MULTIRACIAL ELECTIONS.

END OF REPORT.

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- 15. (LOU) A FINAL REMINDER: PLEASE BEAR IN MIND THAT DISTRIBUTION IS RESTRICTED TO STATE PERSONNEL ONLY.
- 16. AF STADIS ONLY. ASMARA, BRAZZAVILLE, KINSHASA, MOGADISHU AND LUANDA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. CHRISTOPHER

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